# Ohtani picks Angels, a gut punch to Rangers

SPORTSDAY


# The Dallas Morning News

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ELECTIONS '17 | U.S. SENATE

## Trump is all in for Roy Moore

Sex allegations aside, he says GOP can't afford to lose seat to Dems

By TODD J. GILLMAN
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PENSACOLA, Fla. — President Donald Trump flew south on Friday evening to bestow his wholehearted support on Roy Moore, the Alabama Senate nominee who is accused of preying on underage teens decades ago, but whose vote would be critical to Trump's agenda in the coming year.

"VOTE ROY MOORE!" the president tweeted earlier in the day, before heading to a rally in Pensacola, Fla., just across the state line from Alabama and

See TRUMP Page 2A

Joe Raedle/Getty Images

**"We can't afford** to have a liberal Democrat who is completely controlled by Nancy Pelosi and Chuck Schumer," President Donald Trump said Friday night. "We need somebody in that Senate seat who will vote for our Make America Great Again agenda."

HURRICANE MARIA

## Puerto Rico deaths soar

Official toll is 62, but analysis finds 1,052 more deaths than usual

FROM WIRE REPORTS

Homes were flattened. Power was knocked out. And all across Puerto Rico, bodies began showing up at morgues.

Hurricane Maria pummeled Puerto Rico with great fury, but the government there has reported an official death toll far lower than the devastation suggests.

A review by *The New York Times* of daily mortality data from Puerto Rico's vital statistics bureau indicates a significantly higher death toll after

See ELEVATED Page 8A

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

## Raging wildfires leave path of destruction

Gregory Bull/The Associated Press

**Fire crews searched** for hot spots among destroyed homes in the Rancho Monserate Country Club community in Fallbrook, Calif., on Friday. Wildfires have forced tens of thousands of people to evacuate and destroyed hundreds of buildings in Southern California.

## Thousands flee blazes

FROM WIRE REPORTS

VENTURA, Calif. — The quick-moving fires that have forced thousands of Californians to evacuate their homes continued to sweep across the southern part of the state Friday, destroying buildings and taxing fire crews that have been working for days.

Evacuees in San Diego County, where a 4,100-acre fire remained completely uncontained, told of quickly encroaching flames that left at least six people injured, prized racehorses dead and dozens of homes in ruins.

"I got the 'Get the hell out of here' evacuation," said Paul Anderson, who fled his home in San Diego County on Thursday. "About four cop cars rolling around the neighborhood. 'Get out!'"

The fire Anderson fled was among several burning Friday in Southern California, including a flare-up near Alpine in Cleveland National Forest and a blaze in Ventura County that has burned 132,000 acres and destroyed more than 400 buildings. Officials said the Ventura fire was threatening homes from the exclusive enclave of Ojai to the hills of Ventura.

See WILDFIRES Page 3A

HEALTH CARE

## Dead Texans get $5.5M

Deceased beneficiaries paid by Medicaid; $1 million still owed

By SABRIYA RICE
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The agency that runs Texas' Medicaid program owes the federal government about $1 million dollars for making payments to cover health care services for dozens of people who weren't alive.

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission pays managed care organizations a fixed rate to provide medically necessary services to Medicaid recipients.

The problem is that even when beneficiaries died, those payments often continued, says a report released this month from the Office of the Inspector General, an arm of the federal Department of Health and Human Services.

The good news is that the state identified the error through its normal review process. It made efforts to recover more than $5.5 million in payments that were made between January 2013 and December 2015, and which covered health services for 2,145 beneficiaries well after their deaths.

Just over $3.7 million has already been returned.

But a recent federal audit determined that the state still owes $1,038,875. That accounts for 174 deceased beneficiaries, of whom 61 percent still had fixed payments being sent to doctors more than one full year after the patient had died.

See FEDERAL Page 2A

KAUFMAN COUNTY

## Feds: Illuminati talk a ruse

2 used trickery, intimidation to scam rural cabinet maker, indictment says

By KEVIN KRAUSE
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The convoy of security vehicles racing through rural Kaufman County escorted by a helicopter likely turned heads.

But it was not the arrival of the Illuminati, as Joshua Pugh and Johnny Glenn Clifton claimed, according to federal authorities.

Nor were Pugh and Clifton members of the mythical clandestine group of wealthy and powerful individuals who were said to control world events, officials said. Pugh had previously worked entry-level jobs at Little Caesars and Burger King, and Clifton was ordered to repay $150,000 by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission for false claims about oil and gas partnership interests, federal authorities say.

The vehicles and helicopter were part of an elaborate ruse perpetrated by Pugh and Clifton to scam an isolated, expert cabinet maker out of about $1 million between November 2015 and March 2017, according to an indictment unsealed Thursday in Dallas.

Pugh, 23, and Clifton, 50, are charged with one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud

Guy Reynolds/Staff Photographer

**Authorities say one** defendant hired off-duty law enforcement officers to escort him to the victim's place of work in Kemp.

See 2 PLEAD Page 8A


METRO & STATE

**Parks official removed**
The Dallas city secretary removes Park Board member Marlon Rollins after learning he had felony convictions that didn't show up on background checks. **1B**

**Headscarf is barred**
A Muslim woman who wears a headscarf for religious reasons says a Garland department store told her she couldn't work there with her hijab on. **1B**

NATION

**Snow hits Deep South**
Snow blankets parts of the Deep South, delighting schoolchildren with an unexpected holiday. **5A**

**Also:** America's first black astronaut finally gets full honors, 50 years after his death. **9A**

WORLD

**15 peacekeepers killed**
An attack by militants leaves at least 15 U.N. peacekeepers dead in eastern Congo, the worst attack on peacekeeping forces in almost a quarter-century. **10A**

BUSINESS

**Home sales soaring**
Home sales usually lag in the final months of the year, but North Texas home sales soared in November, putting the region on track to break last year's record. **1D**

**Jobs picture rosy**
U.S. employers added 228,000 jobs in November, and the unemployment rate held steady at 4.1 percent, the Labor Department reports. **1D**

**Also:** A tussle between oil states and corn states reaches the White House. **1D**


**Sunny and cool**

H 58
L 32

Metro, back page


SPORTSDAY

**Mayfield favored**
Sooner quarterback Baker Mayfield is expected to win the Heisman. **1C**


INSIDE


| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Lottery | 2A | Markets | 4-6D |
| Nation | 5-6,9A | Dear Abby | 2E |
| World | 10-11,14A | TV | 3E |
| Editorials | 12A | Comics | 3-5E |
| Viewpoints | 13A | Autos | Sec. G |
| Obituaries | 6B | Classified | Sec. H |
| Sports TV | 2C | Jumble | 4H |


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